Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 160089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), IS, US

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WESTERN WALL

REF: STATE 153851

1. VICE PRESIDENT IS PLANNING TO VISIT WESTERN WALL,
PROBABLY FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING, JULY 3. HE IS FULLY
AWARE OF, AND SUPPORTIVE OF, LONG-STANDING U.S. POLICY
PRECLUDING ISRAELI ESCORT FOR CABINET-LEVEL OR HIGHER
VISITOR TO EAST JERUSALEM. THIS POLICY HAS AGAIN BEEN
REVIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS VISIT. WE HAVE CONCLUDED
THAT IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE CURRENT PHASE OF
THE PEACE PROCESS AND OF THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF THE VICE
PRESIDENT, NO DEVIATION FROM ESTABLISHED POLICY IS POSSIBLE.
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PAGE 02 STATE 160089

2. EMBASSY SHOULD DISCUSS VISIT TO WALL WITH GOI AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL, POINTING OUT THAT US POLICY PRECLUDES VICE PRESIDENT BEING ACCOMPANIED BY ISRAELI OFFICIALS (OTHER THAN SECURITY PERSONNEL). WE TRUST THIS EVENT CAN BE HANDLED IN A WAY WHICH MEETS U.S. POLICY CONCERNS AND AT SAME TIME REFLECTS VICE PRESIDENT'S UNDER-

STANDING OF DEEP SIGNIFICANCE WHICH WESTERN WALL HOLDS FOR ALL JEWS. HOWEVER, ANY EFFORT SYMBOLICALLY TO SUGGEST U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAELI POLITICAL CLAIM TO EAST JERUSALEM, WHETHER DURING PLANNING OR THROUGH LAST-MINUTE MISUNDERSTANDING, WOULD PROMPT RECONSIDERATION OF VISIT TO WALL. EMBASSY MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IF ISRAELIS MAKE ATTEMPT TO HAVE ISRAELI OFFICIAL OTHER THAN SECURITY PERSONNEL ACCOMPANY VICE PRESIDENT, THIS WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT YOU CONSIDER FIRM AND UNEQUIVOCAL THAT GOI WILL HANDLE VISIT TO WALL IN MANNER THAT MEETS OUR REQUIREMENTS IN THIS RESPECT.

3. EMBASSY AND CONGEN SHOULD PROCEED WITH PLANNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA. 3 REFTEL. VANCE

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